AN OLD BURIAL GROUND.—On the farm of Edwin Trexler, at Mertztown, about 100 yards distant from the public road leading from Mertztown to Farmington, is located a very old graveyard—so old that there is not a person living now who is able to give anything like a full and accurate history of it. It is believed that it was located as soon as that section was settled, which was about 1732. This "God's acre," as burial grounds were in that way back age called, is about 65 feet long by 50 wide, and is enclosed with a strong stone wall four or five feet high. There is one gate which is strongly fortified by stones. It is related by the old people residing in that neighborhood that in all over 100 bodies were laid to rest in it, though now but 14 graves can be located, they being indicated by handsome tombstones. A number of these still stand nearly erect, while some are in a leaning position. Two stones lie flat on the mounds. None of the other graves have any markers, and there is nothing to tell the wanderer in the necropolis of the spots where the dead rest. As was the custom in days gone by, many buried their dead without marking the place. Boards were sometimes used, but these disappeared with the ravages of time. About the oldest tombstone bears the name of John Peter Trexler, who was born Aug. 17, 1748, and died March 13, 1828. There are a few very artistic and well arranged German inscriptions on tombstones on the grounds, one of which reads as follows: "Dem andenken des verewigten Phillip Dresher aus inneger Hochachtung gewidmet. Er war ein sohn von Konrad Dresher und dessen Ehefrau Elizabeth, eine geborne Merz. Ward geboren den 17 Juny, 1785, starb den 9 Januar, 1828, an dem alter von 42 yohren, 6 monaten und 22 tagen. Leichen text Esaias 60 vers. 20."

Zu frueh fuer mich ist er verschieden,
Doch war es Jesus so zufrieden;
Er nahm ihn weg, er sah ihn gnaedig an,
Un was er thut—ist wohlgethan.

ANNA DRESHER."

Another inscription reads thus: "Zum andenken an Daniel Trexler, sohn von Jahonn Peter und Catharina Trexler. Er war geboren den 1 November, 1799. und starb den 15 September, 1832, im alter von 32 yohre, 10 monete und 14 tage. Leichen text, Psalm 90: 12."

Another shows that Jonas Trexler was born July 26, 1789, and died Dec. 28, 1841.

Mrs. John Peter Trexler, nee Ginginger, is also buried there. She was born June 20, 1757, and died July 28, 1828.

John Peter Trexler, whose grave is about the oldest among those yet to be identified, was formerly the owner of the farm. He was the grandfather of Edwin Trexler, the present owner. It is said that it was the intention of the deceased to have a church built, and in 1837 his expressed purpose was carried out by the erection of St. Paul's church. It was however located about one-fourth of a mile from the old graveyard, in the centre of the village of Mertztown. After the completion of the edifice a cemetery was laid out adjoining the church, and the first corpse buried there was that of Christian Fegely. The Trexler graveyard, notwithstanding the fact that no interments have been made since 1838, is in good condition. As John Peter Trexler's death did not occur until 96 years after the founding of the graveyard it is probable that of the bodies entombed in unmarked graves many have slumbered there for fully 150 years, if indeed not longer. There are still people living in the vicinity whose ancestry lie buried there, but of the majority who are there sleeping "the sleep that knows no waking" the families have doubtless become extinct; are heard of no more; they are gone, all gone. On funeral occasions in the long ago the burial services were as a rule held at the homes of the dead, church buildings being then few and far between.